

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/073,877	05/07/98	FORD	L LN. 010

SUSANNE M HOPKINS, ESQ.  
LIFENET  
5809 WARD COURT  
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23455

QM12/1119

EXAMINER

HIRSCH, P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3732	# 7

DATE MAILED:

11/19/99

# 8

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. <b>09/073,877</b>	Applicant(s) <b>Wolfinbarger et al</b>
	Examiner <b>Paul Hirsch</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3732</b>

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 1, 1999

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

#### Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

#### Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 3732

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
  
2. The previous rejection of claims 1-26 in the prior Office action is repeated and incorporated herein as follows:

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Senter et al in view of Heggeness et al, Wagner et al, Cottle, Gross et al and McKay. While Senter et al teaches an implant of included protrusions it would be obvious in view of both the teachings of Senter et al and Heggeness et al of known allografts to form a prosthesis such as taught by Senter et al with the known and conventional shapes of spinal prosthesis. Heggeness et al teaches (col. 1, lines 43-57 for example) that allografts can be produced in various sizes and shapes. The inclusion of various shaped protrusions such as ridges, pyramids, points of known construction in bone prosthesis such as taught by Wagner et al, Cottle, McKay and Gross et al is considered a matter of obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art as well as specific dimensioning. The method steps of claims 3-4 and 24 ( milling is a known method of article manufacture), would be obvious in view of the references applied.

Art Unit: 3732

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed November 1, 1999 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant in their remarks have stated in their argument that the references just do not teach or make obvious their invention of a bone allograft of various shapes as recited by the claims. This is not found to be persuasive since as stated in the rejection both Senter et al (col. 2, lines 3-23) and Heggeness et al (col. 1, lines 44-57) teach as part of the known prior art allografts (which must have some shape) of an inherent shape with Heggeness et al teaching that the allografts may be produced in a variety of shapes and sizes. Accordingly, it follows that the known shapes of similar implants such as shown by Wagner et al, Cottle, McKay and Gross et al would be produced and obvious and/or known to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, the subject matter of the claims is believed obvious in view of the references applied.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir.

Art Unit: 3732

1992). In this case, as stated above both Senter et al and Heggeness et al teach prior art of known bone allograft with Senter et al showing an implant 50 inclusive of what may be termed protrusions 66,68 in the broadest sense and Heggeness et al stating that the allografts may be made in various shapes and sizes. Accordingly, the combination of these teachings with known prior art shapes is believed obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and further in view of Heggeness et al the specific shape is one of obvious design choice.

*Conclusion*

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

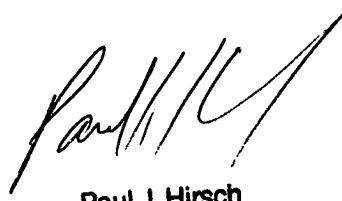
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3732

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Primary Examiner Paul Hirsch whose telephone number is (703) 308-2697.

pjh

November 18, 1999



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Hirsch".

Paul J. Hirsch  
Primary Examiner